



COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

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Dr. Chris Belcher
Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Nick D. Boren
Deputy Superintendent

February 13, 2012


Charles N. Davis, Ph.D.
University of Missouri
Missouri School of Journalism
204 Neff Hall
Columbia, MO 65211

Dear Dr. Davis:

Pursuant to your request of January 31, 2012, enclosed please find our response.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Nick D. Boren
Deputy Superintendent

jlr

Enclosure

The only "formal" request that I have on record is from September- November 2008 at Mary Paxton Keeley. The Book was "The Face on the Milk Carton" by Caroline B. Cooley. Attached is the copy of the reconsideration form completed by the parent and the Letter from Elaine Hassemer. Please let me know if there are other questions, Julie

Julie Nichols
Manager of Instructional Technology
Columbia Public Schools
jnichols@columbia.k12.mo.us
573-214-3900*25416

Mon, Thurs, Fri
13 16 17

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF MATERIALS

Title The Face On The Milk Carton

Book ☒ Periodical ☐ File ☐ Videotape ☐ Other ☐

Author Caroline B. Cooney

Publisher Laurel Leaf Books

Request Initiated by Kim Alexander

Address 2805 Moss Oak CT

City Columbia State MO Zip 65203 Telephone 573-355-0201

Do you represent:

☒ Yourself

☐ An Organization (name) _____

☐ Other group (name) _____

1. To what in the work do you object? (Please be specific. Cite pages) 47 - intense

kissing; 77- over please sleeping w/ someone mentioned;
84 cults discussed; 102 couple discusses sex; 113 couple
discusses sex; 116 couple goes to a motel to have sex; over ->

2. Did you read the entire work? yes What parts? _____

3. What do you think might be the reaction of a student's reading or viewing this work? _____

Fear of similar things happening to them.

4. For what age group would you recommend this work? High School

5. What do you believe is the theme of this work? _____

6. What would you like your library/School to do about this work?

☒ Do not assign/loan it to my child.

☒ Return it to the selection committee/department for re-evaluation.

☒ Other. Explain maybe remove it

7. In its place, what work would you recommend that would convey as valuable picture and perspective of the subject treated? Mrs. Fvisbee & the

Rats of NIMH

Signature Kim Alexander Date 9/30/06

143 - go to make-out spot; girl blames herself for being kidnapped;
girl speaks of trans-~~bi~~-cross sexual habits; too many more
to write down.

This book is about a girl who sees her face
on a milk carton. She begins an
investigation. During the entire book
she is frantic, crying & emotionally
helpless. No solution is ever proposed
for coping skills. She is 15 years old.

Coincidentally she begins her first
romantic relationship. Her boyfriend
breaks up after dating a while
because of her continued depression
& obsession. He immediately gets
a new girlfriend.

There is no "happy ending." The book
simply ends & the reader is asked
to buy the next book in the series.
The vivid descriptions of her emotional
& physical distress are the main
crux of the work.

In my opinion this book was written for one
reason - ~~it~~! This is sensationalism at it's
worst. No coping mechanisms are offered
the poor girl, and the reader is not even
given a satisfactory resolution! I would
also request all other titles by this author, if
indeed this published be reviewed.

Mary Paxton Keeley Elementary School

201 Park de Ville Dr. • Columbia, MO 65203
Ph. 573/214-3570 • Fax 573/214-3571

Mrs. Elaine E. Hassemer, *Principal*
Mrs. Karen Burger, *Asst. Principal*

November 13, 2008

Mrs. Kim Alexander
2805 Moss Oak Court
Columbia, Missouri 65203

Dear Mrs. Alexander,

The request for reconsideration of materials form completed by you was forwarded to Mrs. Julie Nichols, Manager of Instructional Technology. A committee was formed according to school guidelines. The committee included a representative from Instructional Media Services, a media specialist, a teacher, a parent representative from the PTA, a counselor and two principals. The committee all read the book and discussed reviews of the book. Our committee met on Thursday, October 16, 2008 for a discussion of the book and your request. The committee was given time to reread and reflect. We met again on November 11, 2008 to give you the opportunity to discuss your concerns with the committee.

Following our meetings, the committee shared ideas from their perspective relative to the placement of this book in our school and other schools. The group discussed your concerns. While the group did understand your concerns, everyone felt that there was a need to provide materials with interest to upper level mature readers. The review committee also noted this book won several awards. Teachers and the media specialist do spend time teaching students on the selection of appropriate books for their age group. The current policy allows parents to restrict access to any materials they feel inappropriate for their child. The committee felt this policy covered your concerns. The committee voted unanimously to retain the book in the media centers of our district.

As a parent you are wise to continue to discuss your child's reading material and to share concerns when they arise. You may also place a restriction on your child's check out number to prevent this book, or author, from being checked out by her. To do this, please contact Sharon Shauwacker at 214-3570. If you feel that further appeal is warranted, you may contact me. You may also speak to Dr. Sally Beth Lyon, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. I do appreciate your concerns. Please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss this further.

Sincerely,



Elaine E. Hassemer
Principal

cc: Mrs. Julie Nichols
Dr. Sally Beth Lyon